



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 117th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 167

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, MAY 18, 2021

No. 86

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2021, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

HONORING EDDIE MCBRIDE

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARRINGTON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ARRINGTON. Madam Speaker, it is an honor to congratulate my friend, Eddie McBride, on 23 outstanding years at the Lubbock Chamber of Commerce.

Eddie has served as the president and CEO of the Lubbock Chamber since 1999. Under his leadership, the Lubbock Chamber has received countless awards, including the best chamber in the Nation and numerous star accreditations.

Again, my dear friend is an exceptional leader, even though he attended Texas A&M University. Then he served his Nation in the United States Air Force for 20 years.

Upon moving to Lubbock in 1976, Eddie immersed himself into our community, served on numerous boards, including the Texas Association of Business, Workforce Solutions South Plains, and Covenant Health for decades. Eddie has served with excellence and integrity, always putting our community's interests above his own.

I congratulate Eddie on an outstanding career, and I thank him from

the bottom of our hearts for his service and contributions to Lubbock and to west Texas.

We wish the very best for you and your wife, Debbie; your children, Chelsea and Patrick; and the entire McBride family.

God bless you. And go west Texas.

RECOGNIZING SERGEANT JERROD BURTNETT

Mr. ARRINGTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sergeant Jerrod Burtnett, a true west Texas hero.

On December 27, 2019, vast fog surrounded Sergeant Burtnett as he investigated a series of crashes due to zero visibility in Lubbock County. After checking on a bystander along the side of the road, a fast-moving tractor-trailer lost control, hitting a number of vehicles, as well as Sergeant Burtnett, causing him serious injury.

Sergeant Burtnett won the Purple Heart for his actions that day, and his experience is a reminder to us all how dangerous the job of being in law enforcement is.

It is an honor to recognize Sergeant Burtnett for his bravery and his steadfastness to enter a dangerous situation to help the people of Texas.

On that cold, foggy day, Sergeant Burtnett exerted the valor, courage, and selflessness that epitomized the men and women in blue.

May God bless Sergeant Burtnett and his family, and all those in uniform who risk their lives to protect ours.

SANCTUARY CITY FOR THE UNBORN

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, I believe life is a gift from God, begins at conception, and that unborn children have the same right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness as you and I do.

Nothing gives me more joy or sense of purpose than being a champion for the unborn. I know the vast majority of west Texans believe, as I do, that all life is sacred, God-given, and should be protected at all stages.

The Lubbock community recently stood together against the stain of

abortion on the fabric of our country by voting to become a sanctuary city for the unborn. Now, whether or not this ordinance is upheld in the courts, I am immensely proud that my hometown has made a statement, not only to Texas, but to the whole country, that as for us, the people of west Texas, we stand for life.

Mr. Speaker, west Texans firmly believe, as I do, that we ought to promote a culture of life and that life at every stage is equally valuable, equally precious, not only in light of the Constitution, but in the eyes of God.

Like the citizens of Lubbock, I will continue to fight for the voiceless, vulnerable, unborn Americans and their constitutionally protected right to life.

God bless America. God bless the unborn. And go west Texas.

OUR BORDERLESS COUNTRY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. YARMUTH). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, last year, we had achieved operational control of our southern border for the first time in generations. Trespassers knew they would be turned back, so they never started the perilous journey.

On his first day in office, Joe Biden canceled the border wall, ordered ICE not to faithfully execute the laws, and canceled the remain-in-Mexico policy for asylum claims. This sent a powerful message throughout the world that America's borders are wide open. So now we are 4 months into an experiment that will test how long a country without borders can survive.

The numbers speak for themselves. The week of the 2020 election, scarcely 100 family units illegally crossed our border. By the week of the inauguration, 1,100 did. By the last week of March, it was over 14,000 in a week.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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